

LIBERTY CALL

"Hawaii's fastest juggler" Greg Gabaylo amazes audiences with the ability to juggle many different objects, including hula-hoops at a high rate of speed.



ABRACADABRA

Magic in Paradise

at the



Greg Gabaylo performs a juggling trick involving two swords and an apple; during which he snacks on the fruit in mid-juggle.

Hale Koa



Magician Curtis Kam (left) performs a rope illusion for the audience. Curtis (above) performs one of the oldest magic tricks in the book with steel rings. Kam has been a magician for over 25 years and has worked at the "Magic in Paradise" show for 10 of the 15 years it has been running.

Hale Koa Hotel honors military kids with 'Magic in Paradise'

Story and Photos by PH2 Chad McNeeley

NAVY REGION HAWAII

The Hale Koa Hotel is celebrating April as "Month of the Military Child" with discounted tickets to its weekly "Magic in Paradise" show starring local magician Curtis Kam.

Along with the discount on tickets, kids under 12 receive a free 8x10 group photo with their family, a goodie bag with toys and a chance to win admission for three to local tourist attractions.

The show, held on Tuesday nights, offers an all-you-can-eat "kid friendly" buffet featuring spaghetti, pizza and fried chicken, among other items.

"The magic show is one of the longest running in Waikiki," said the show's star Curtis Kam. A magician for over 25 years, Kam has performed at the Hale Koa show for 10 of the 15 years that it has been running. He dazzles the audience with a mix of illusions, card tricks and his own take on "mind reading."

"We have people that return to the show on a regular basis, year after year," said Kam. "I met a family tonight that has returned numerous times to see the show and think of it as their own little secret," he added.

During April though, the show is geared more toward the younger generation. "We focus more towards the children with our humor and tricks. Our tricks are a little more for their level, and our jokes are more kid oriented than what we would normally do if we had a room full of adults," Kam said.

The show also features "Hawaii's fastest juggler" Greg Gabaylo, who amazes audiences, young and old alike with his speed and agility juggling numerous items including swords.

The finale comes when Kam reminisces about a time when he was a child growing up in Hawaii, being one of the only kids to have ever seen snow. "My friends knew I did magic, and they wanted me to make it snow," he said. So Kam finishes the show with a flurry of white when he brings a snowstorm on to the Hale Koa's banquet room stage.

According to Hale Koa Marketing Coordinator, Lani McWilliams, the hotel offers the discounted children's ticket prices to help recognize the kids.

"Being a military child today is a hard job," said McWilliams. "Being a child and all of the hardships that go along with it deserves to be recognized, and we want to say "thank you," she added.

Remaining dates for the Month of the Military child "Magic in Paradise" show are April 11, 18 and 25. Ticket prices are \$7.50 (normally \$10.50) for kids and \$19.95 for adults. Tickets are on sale at the Hale Koa Activities Desk and Military Ticket Offices. Charge by phone by calling 955-0555, ext. 546.

As an Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC), the Hale Koa welcomes active duty and retired military, Reserve National Guard members, dependants, current and retired DoD civilian employees and sponsored guests.

Along with magic (right) and juggling, Kam has a comedic routine that involves the young and old alike.

